In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A medicinal skin patch for the treatment of colds by releasing essential oils through evaporation, said skin patch comprising a backing layer permeable to gas and water vapour and a hydrophile and pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer matrix connected to said backing layer, said polymer matrix comprising:

at least one essential oil inhalable as a decongestant;

at least one hydrophile polymer for incorporating and for delivering said at least one essential oil for the treatment of colds;

at least one substance selected from the group consisting of cyclodextrins, cyclodextrin derivatives, silicic acid, silicic acid derivatives and medicinal charcoal, said at least one substance having an adsorbent effect and to prevent the occurrence of phase separation between the at least one hydrophile matrix polymer and the at least one essential oil phase or/and at least one substance having an emulsifying effect for prolonging pot life; and

at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer for adhering said patch to the skin, the water content of said matrix being less than 5% by weight.

2. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of said at least one hydrophile polymer is 15 to 50% by weight relative to the said matrix.

3. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein said polymer matrix contains at least one hydrophile polymer selected from the group consisting of cellulose derivatives, polyvinyl alcohols, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyacrylic acid, polyacrylamide, polyethylene glycols, alginates, tragacanth, gums, xanthan, carrageenan, bentonite, starch and starch derivatives.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein said at least one substance having an emulsifying action is selected from the group consisting of sodium palmitate, sodium stearate, triethanolamine stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate, gum Arabic, alkonium bromide, benzalkonium bromide, cetylpyridium chloride, cetyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, higher branched fatty alcohols, partial fatty acids of polyhydric alcohols, partial fatty acid esters of sorbitan, partial fatty acid esters of polyoxyethylene sorbitan, sorbitol ether of polyoxyethylene, fatty acid esters of polyoxyethylene, fatty alcohol ethers of polyoxyethylene, fatty acid esters of saccharose, fatty acid esters of polyglycerol, lecithin and complex emulsifiers.

6. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect is 0.1 to 40% by weight relative to said polymer matrix.

7. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein said at least one essential oil is selected from the group consisting of eucalyptol (cineol), menthol, thymol, borneol, bisabolol, mint oil, peppermint oil, spearmint oil, eucalyptus oil, camphor, turpentine oil, pine-needle oil, anise oil, fennel oil, thyme oil, rosemary oil, camomile oil and clove oil.

8. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one essential oil is 5 to 25% by weight relative to said polymer matrix.

9. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of said at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer is 5 to 60% by weight, relative to said polymer matrix.

10. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 9, wherein said at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polydimethyl siloxane, polyvinyl acetate, polyisobutene, polyisobutylene, S-I-S block copolymers, polyterpenes, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers, rubber and synthetic rubbers.

11. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein said polymer matrix contains additional adjuvants and wherein the proportion of said adjuvants is 1 to 50% by weight.

12. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein said polymer matrix includes a skin-facing surface, said skin-facing surface of the polymer matrix being covered with a detachable protective layer.

13. (withdrawn) A process for the production of a medical skin patch comprising a backing layer permeable to gas and water vapour and a hydrophile, pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer matrix with a content of at least one essential oil for the treatment of colds, said process comprising the following steps:

(a) producing a coating compound containing a group of components by mixing said group of components, said group of components comprising:

at least one essential oil inhalable as a decongestant;

at least one hydrophile polymer for incorporating and for delivering said at least one essential oil for the treatment of colds;

at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer in a nonaqueous solvent for adhering said patch to the skin; and

at least one substance having an adsorbent effect and to prevent the occurrence of phase separation between the at least one hydrophile matrix polymer and the at least one essential oil phase or/and at least one substance having an emulsifying effect for prolonging pot life;

(b) coating said compound onto said backing layer permeable to gas and water vapour;

(c) leaving said backing layer to dry or solidify to obtain the polymer matrix; and

(d) punching out or cutting out individual patches.

14. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, wherein at least step (a) is performed under cooling at temperatures below 15 °C.

15. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, wherein said coating compound produced in step (a) remains processible for a period of at least 3 hours following production.

16. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, wherein the proportion of said at least one hydrophile polymer in the coating compound is 15 to 50% by weight.

17. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect or/and of said at least one substance having an adsorbent effect contained in the coating compound is 0.1 to 40% by weight.

18. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one essential oil in the coating mass is 5 to 25% by weight.

19. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, wherein the proportion of said at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer in the coating compound is 5 to 60% by weight.

20. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, further comprising the step of admixing additional adjuvants to the coating compound, the proportion of said adjuvants being 1 to 50% by weight.

21. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, wherein said polymer matrix includes an adhesive surface, said adhesive surface of the polymer matrix being covered with a detachable protective layer.

22. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, wherein said coating compound contains the following components:

30 to 40% by weight of polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive solution;

0.1 to 1% by weight of Al-acetylacetonate;

20 to 40% by weight of said at least one hydrophile polymer;

1 to 10% by weight of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect;

0.5 to 10% by weight of said antifoaming agent; and

5 to 20% by weight of said at least one essential oil;

the sum of the proportions of the individual components always being 100% by weight.

23. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, wherein said coating compound contains the following components:

5% to 10% by weight of polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive solution;

20 to 35% by weight of glycerol (anhydrous);

15 to 25% by weight of propylene glycol;

10 to 20% by weight of said at least one substance having an adsorbent effect;

15 to 25% by weight of said at least one hydrophile polymer; and

5 to 20% by weight of said at least one essential oil;

the sum of the proportions of the individual components always amounting to 100% by weight.

24. (withdrawn) A method of treating colds, wherein a skin patch according to claim 1 or a skin patch produced according to the process of claim 13 is adhered to the diseased person's skin in the region of the chest, the back, the forehead, the neck or the napefor enabling a continuous release of essential oils by evaporation as well as the subsequent uptake of the evaporated essential oils by the person's nose or mouth by way of inhalation.

25. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 1, wherein the water content of said matrix is less than 1% by weight.

26. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 2, wherein the proportion of said at least one hydrophile polymer is 20-40% by weight relative to said matrix.

27. (previously presented) The patch according to claim 3, wherein said cellulose derivatives are selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl cellulose and carboxypropyl cellulose and said gums are selected from the group consisting of karaya gum, acacia gum and guar gum.

28. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 6, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect is 1 to 30% by weight relative to said polymer matrix.

29. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 28, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect is 5 to 20% by weight relative to said polymer matrix.

30. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 7, wherein said at least one essential oil is a combination of menthol, camphor and pine oil.

31. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 8, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one essential oil is 10 to 20% by weight relative to said polymer matrix.

32. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 9, wherein the proportion of said at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer is 5 to 40% by weight relative to said polymer matrix.

33. (previously presented) The skin patch according to claim 11, wherein said additional adjuvants are at least one of moisturizers and antifoaming agents, and wherein the proportion of said adjuvants is 5 to 30% by weight.

34. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 14, wherein at least step (a) is performed at temperatures below 10 °C.

35. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, wherein said coating compound produced in step (a) remains processible for a period of at least 5 hours following production.

36. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 35, wherein said coating compound produced in step (a) remains processible for a period of at least 8 hours following production.

37. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 16, wherein the proportion of said at least one hydrophile polymer in the coating compound is 20-40% by weight.

38. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 17, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect or/and of said at least one substance having an adsorbent effect contained in the coating compound is 1 to 30% by weight.

39. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 38, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one substance having an emulsifying effect or/and of said at least one substance having an adsorbent effect contained in the coating compound is 5 to 20% by weight.

40. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 18, wherein the overall proportion of said at least one essential oil in the coating mass is 10 to 20% by weight.

41. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 19, wherein the proportion of said at least one pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer in the coating compound is 5 to 40% by weight.

42. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 20, wherein said additional adjuvants are at least one of moisturizers and anti-foaming agents, the proportion of said adjuvants being 5 to 30% by weight.

43. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 22, wherein said at least one hydrophile polymer is karaya gum, said at least one substance having an emulsifying

effect is polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate, and said at least one essential oil is a combination of camphor, menthol and pine oil.

44. (withdrawn) The process according to claim 23, wherein said at least one substance having an adsorbent effect; is a combination of silicic acid and hydroxypropyl-beta-cyclodextrin, said at least one hydrophile polymer is karaya gum, and said at least one essential oil is a combination of camphor, menthol and pine oil.